

PREFACE.

In the spring of 1870 I published the first edition of the Loomis Genealogy. That volume contained the names of 4,840 persons whose descent was traced from Joseph Loomis of Windsor, Conn. In the preparation of that volume I expended a large amount of time and money, and yet it fell very much short of my idea of a complete genealogy, such as I was desirous of making it. Notwithstanding its imperfect condition, there were many reasons which inclined me to publish it. The most urgent reason was, that my manuscript had become so large as to be unwieldy, and in order to prosecute my researches further, it was important to have a fair copy of all the names which I had collected, that they should be arranged in systematic order, and provided with copious indices for convenient reference. Another consideration which influenced me was that I hoped the publication of the book would excite greater interest in the history of the family, and that a large number of contributors would volunteer to furnish me information for correcting errors and supplying omissions in the first edition. The book excited a less general interest than I had expected. Although only 250 copies were printed, and the book was offered at a price barely sufficient to pay the expense of printing and binding, if all the copies could have been sold, the demand for the book nearly ceased when only about half the edition had been disposed of. Upon reducing the price, some additional copies were sold, and the remainder were distributed gratuitously, as I hoped by this means to secure more abundant materials for a second and improved edition.

Since the publication of the first edition of the Genealogy, I have spent nearly all of my college vacations in collecting additional names and information. I soon discovered that the objects which I desired could not be secured by correspondence except to